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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)  
 SUBJECT Penicillin Factory in Riga

PLACE  
 ACQUIRED  
 DATE OF  
 INFO.

25X1

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1. Location:

On Moscow Street in Riga (56°58'N/24°06'E), Latvian SSR, 500 meters south of the railroad bridge crossing the Dvina River, opposite the synagogue.

2. The plant is a two-story stone building covering an area 25 x 30 meters.

3. Work force:

The building detail for construction work numbered 250 men.

4. Number and kind of boilers:

Eight boilers each with 11,000 liters volumetric capacity. They will allegedly be operated at full capacity and will serve for the fermentation of penicillin.

5. Machinery:

American machines, still packed in boxes.

6. Completion of the plant:

A plant section employing 80 female workers started production on 8 May 1948.

7. Managing engineer: Willi Schmidt from Duesseldorf (K 52/F 39).

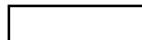
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8. The plant will allegedly produce penicillin. It was learned from Soviets that it will be a modern compound to be used for curing VD. According to Soviet information, a similar plant is in Moscow (55°45'N/37°35'E). The construction of the plant started in 1946. The existing plant building was enlarged. A section of the plant was already producing on a limited scale. Research is also done in the plant. Some parts of the newly built plant will start production at the end of 1948.

9. Location:

On Moscow Street in Riga. An island, about 800 to 1,000 meters long and 800 meters wide, is in the Dvina River arm opposite the plant. Small houses, gardens, and a sawmill are on the island.

10. Plant installations:

See attached layout sketch and legend.

11. Women doctors and other personnel work in the plant building No. 6a. They wear white smocks. The Section No. 6 was to be completed by 15 October 1948. Production was to be started soon in Building No. 7. Work was done in one shift.

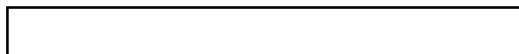
25X1 12. round, brown bottles standing in the yard. Their volumetric capacity was about 250 cubic centimeters. they are used for the shipment of the products. At the entrance of the building was a civilian guard, checking only the working PWs. 25X1

13. The plant is between the highway to Daugavpils and the Dvina River arm, about 500 meters from the railroad bridge crossing the Dvina River. The construction of the plant started in 1945 and was to be completed by the end of 1948. Most of the machinery had already been installed in the plant. According to the information the plant was to produce penicillin. It was said to be the second plant of this kind in the Soviet Union. The first penicillin factory was reported to be in the Moscow area.

25X1 14. A three-story building, covering an area of 40 x 50 meters, was completed in rough brickwork at the time of observation. A larger building covering an area of 70 x 20 meters was already completed. It had laboratory rooms on the second floor. The office and residential building as well as the machine and boiler house were also completed. Small and large machines arrived during the time of observation. They were immediately installed in the various buildings.

25X1 Comment:

25X1 According to the description the plant is on Moscow Street in the narrow housing block No. 72, etc. The island of Svirsdu-Zala is opposite the plant.



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Legend to AnnexLayout sketch of the Penicillin Factory in Riga

- 1 Pump station, 10 x 12 meters
- 2 Well shafts, 8 meters deep, excavated by PWs
- 3 Power station, 15 x 7 meters, one-story structure, part of the building (3a) is destroyed.
- 4 Pump station, with two German piston pumps (each machine 2 meters long)
- 5 Two underground tanks with a volumetric capacity of 5,000 liters each. The mentioned two piston pumps pump the liquid from these tanks. The tanks are under the surface 4 to 5 meters from the pump station. One tank is said to be filled with ether, the other one with acetone. [ ] does not know where the liquid is pumped.
- 6 Plant building, 30 x 10 meters. On the ground floor are four or five boilers with a volumetric capacity of 8,000 liters each. The boilers are supported 1.5 meters above surface.
- 6a Part of the building where production has been started. In this part are round boilers about 1.5 meters in diameter. Something was apparently being moved in the boilers. Each boiler is equipped with a motor. The boilers are solidly installed. They are closed by lids on top and are connected with the piping system. No firing facilities were observed.
- 6b Heating installation. There is a metal and a brickwork smokestack. The large 8,000-liter boilers reach into the upper floor of the building, where additional small boilers are installed.
- 7 New plant annex (50 x 70 meters). It is a workshop building, as high as a three-story structure. It houses the following installations:
  - 7a Metal basin, 4 x 2 x 1.5 meters.
  - 7b Two large American ventilators. Pipes, 50 cm in diameter, are installed on the walls. [ ] presumed they are connected with the ventilators.
  - 7c Ventilators.
  - 7d This section is not used. It is a three-story structure. On the upper floor are small boilers ranging from 200 to 500 liters capacity. The boilers are provided with motors. There are also about eight boilers, the capacity of which source estimated at 1,000 liters. Five American centrifuges are established here, connected with a piping system.
- 8 New boiler house (15 x 15 meters, a four-story structure with a 3-meter metal smokestack). Two brickwork furnaces were to be built, but work had not started.
- 9 Residential building.
- 10 Building; use unknown.

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